REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Non-Final Office Action dated February 19, 2010. Claims 1, 2, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, 21, 22, 26, 28, and 29 have been amended for clarity and to expedite prosecution of the instant application. Claims 16 and 23 stand cancelled. A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith. Please charge deposit account number 02-1818 for any fees due in connection with the Supplemental IDS and this Response.

The Office Action rejected claims 14, 15, and 26 to 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,019,283 to Lucero ("Lucero") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,270,410 to DeMar et al. ("DeMar"). Applicant disagrees and traverses this rejection. Nonetheless, Applicant has amended independent claims 14 and 26 for clarity and to expedite prosecution of the instant application.

Lucero discloses gaming machines and systems that "make it possible for a player to participate in games of chance at casinos and other gaming establishments by using a general purpose charge card rather than a house card." (col. 2, ll. 15-19). Lucero discloses a "card reader [that] reads selected information from the charge card, transmits it over a data link for validation, e.g., to the card issuer and, upon receiving back a validation over the data link, requests a personal identification number (PIN) from the player." (col. 2, ll. 33-37). Lucero states that:

> [i]f the card is acceptable for the amount of credit desired, the liquid crystal display 18 gives instructions on making use of the credit through the use of the keyboard 20. The information generated through the keyboard 20 is coupled on line 21 to reader 26 which provides the necessary signals on line 24 to the gaming machine operating mechanism 36 to allow the player to use the credit by operating the gaming machine. (col. 4, ll. 57-64).

Lucero further discloses the use of an intermediate system between the gaming machine and the remote financial institution. (col. 5, ll. 22-25). Lucero discloses that this intermediate system can maintain a current balance such that a single line item can be charged to a player's account. (col. 7, ll. 59-62).

DeMar is directed to a gaming system with a portable controller comprising a remote control to remotely play a game on a slot machine. (Abstract). DeMar further

discloses that a primary microcomputer communicates with all of the microprocessors associated with the various reel drivers for different reels of the slot machine. (col. 9, ll. 37-40). Specifically, after the primary microprocessor determines an appropriate reel combination to display, the information is communicated to the respective microprocessors of each reel driver, which each count the steps of a motor during turning of the reel and stop the rotation of the motor according to the determined position. (col. 9, ll. 43-50).

Amended independent claim 14 is directed to a gaming device configured to operate to transfer funds electronically for use by a player including, among other elements, a first processor supported by the housing and configured to operate to receive an electronic fund transfer request from the player, the request including at least an account number and a requested amount of money, send the request to a remote fund repository that generates a response to the request, the response to the request indicative of whether the remote fund repository approved the request, receive the response to the request, and cause data indicative of the response to be sent to a gaming establishment network external to the gaming device, and a second processor supported by a housing and configured to cause a ticket printer to print a ticket with the requested amount in response to receiving a signal from the gaming establishment network if the response to the request is indicative that the remote fund repository approved the request, the second processor thus configured to operate without direct communication between the first processor and the second processor.

The Office Action stated that Lucero discloses that "the processor is configured to operate without direct communication between the processors." (page 3). In the next sentence, the Office Action stated that "Lucero, however, fails to explicitly disclose a [sic – a] plurality of processors." (page 3).

Applicant submits that the Office Action's internal inconsistencies with regard to this element are erroneous, and illustrate that Lucero does not teach or suggest each element of amended independent claim 14. That is, the Office Action stated, on the one hand, that Lucero discloses operation without communication between processors, and, on the other hand, that Lucero does not disclose a plurality of processors. Applicant respectfully submits that because Lucero does not teach or suggest multiple

processors, as admitted by the Office Action, Lucero cannot teach or suggest that any actions occur without direct communication between a first processor and a second processor. With only one processor, the concept of communication occurring between processors is inapplicable and irrelevant, and thus cannot be addressed by Lucero.

Furthermore, amended independent claim 14 includes a first processor configured to cause data indicative of the response to be sent to a gaming establishment network external to the gaming device and a second processor supported by a housing and configured to cause a ticket printer to print a ticket with the requested amount in response to receiving a signal from the gaming establishment network if the response to the request is indicative that the remote fund repository approved the request. Applicant submits that after Lucero receives a response from an EFT network, any further signal transmission and processing (including enabling the player to wager on plays of the game with funds approved by the EFT network) occur internal to the gaming device. That is, after receiving a response from an EFT network, Lucero does not send any signal to any network external to the gaming device. Rather, the signal indicative of the approval for use of funds is communicated within the gaming device to enable the player to wager on plays of the game. A person of ordinary skill in the art would understand that this clarification as to the operation of the gaming device of independent claim 14, wherein the first processor does not communicate directly with the second processor, represents a patentable distinction over Lucero.

The Office Action admitted that Lucero "fails to explicitly disclose [sic – a] plurality of processors." (page 3). The Office Action relied on DeMar to remedy this deficiency.

While Applicant agrees with the Office Action's identification of this deficiency of Lucero, Applicant disagrees the Office Action's reasoning allegedly remedying the deficiency. Though DeMar discloses a plurality of microprocessors, those microprocessors explicitly communicate directly with one another. That is, one of the microprocessors communicates directly with a plurality of other microprocessors to control a plurality of reels, such that the reels display a combination of symbols determined by the one microprocessor. Applicant submits that even if a plurality of microprocessors are disclosed in DeMar, those microprocessors communicate directly with one another, and thus do not remedy the admitted deficiencies of Lucero with

regard to amended independent claim 14. Moreover, because the direct communication is necessary (i.e., to ensure that the proper symbol combination is displayed), Applicant submits that a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have modified Lucero in view of DeMar to result in the gaming device of claim 14.

Applicant also submits that DeMar does not remedy the additional deficiencies of Lucero identified above with regard to a gaming establishment network external to the gaming device. As noted, any communication between microprocessors of Lucero occurs within the gaming device of Lucero, and thus cannot involve a gaming establishment network external to the gaming device.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claim 14 is patentably distinguished over Lucero in view of DeMar and is in condition for allowance. Claim 15, which depends from independent claim 14, is also patentably distinguished over Lucero in view of DeMar for the reasons given above with respect to independent claim 14, and because of the additional features recited in this claim.

Amended independent claim 26 (and dependent claims 27 to 29, which depend from independent claim 26) includes certain similar elements to amended independent claim 14. Thus, for reasons similar to those given above with respect to independent claim 14, Applicant submits that claims 26 to 29 are each patentably distinguished over Lucero in view of DeMar and are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 to 13, 17 to 22, 24, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lucero in view of DeMar and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,585,598 to Nguyen et al. ("Nguyen"). Applicant disagrees with this rejection. Nonetheless, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 17 for clarity and to expedite prosecution of the instant application.

Nguyen discloses a "gaming system that uses typically a wireless communication device." (Abstract). In the Background of the Invention section, Nguyen states that "[w]hile a charge card might be used to obtain credit for playing [] machines, this generally requires the presence of a charge card reader at each machine, which is an undesirable expense. Accordingly, it would be desirable to provide a cashless and

cardless system for use by customers." (col. 1, ll. 23-27). Nguyen further states that a cardless and cashless system "is an advantage because there currently are hundreds of thousands [sic − of] slot machines without card readers." Upon determining if a transaction is valid, Nguyen discloses that a bank "wires the transaction amount to a particular branch of the casino if appropriate." (col. 5, ll. 26-27). The particular slot machine is thereafter credited with the transferred money. (col. 5, ll. 29-30).

Applicant disagrees with the Office Action's statement that Nguyen is properly combined with Lucero. Applicant reincorporates its arguments from the previous Response to Office Action, filed on November 11, 2009, in this regard.
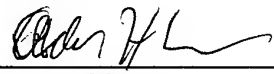
Even assuming that Nguyen is properly combined with Lucero, amended independent claims 1 and 17 (and the claims that depend therefrom) are nonetheless patentably distinguished over Lucero in view of DeMar and Nguyen.

Specifically, Applicant submits that amended independent claims 1 and 17 each include certain similar elements to amended independent claim 14, discussed above. Thus, regardless of whether Nguyen discloses "a cashless gaming system wherein a player using a wireless device to requests fund [sic] and receive a response from a remote fund repository," and regardless of whether "the remote fund repository wires the requested amount directly to a game machine and prints a receipt acknowledging the transfer," as stated by the Office Action at pages 4 to 5, Nguyen does not remedy the deficiencies of Lucero in view of DeMar identified above.

For reasons similar to those given above with respect to independent claim 14, Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 17 (and dependent claims 2 to 13, 18 to 22, 24, and 25) are each patentably distinguished over Lucero in view of DeMar and Nguyen, and are in condition for allowance.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and in the absence of more pertinent art such action is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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